

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3888

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: KS, NI, PDIP
SUBJECT: ROK-NIGERIAN RELATIONS

REF: LAGOS 2360

1. NEW NIGERIAN, ONE OF TWO NATIONAL DAILIES, ON MARCH 27, 1978
CARRIED FRONT PAGE ARTICLE ENTITLED "BEWARE OF SOUTH KOREA" BASED
ON INTERVIEW WITH MR. SAM G. IKOKU, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL COM-
MITTEE ON APARTHEID.

2. MAIN POINTS OF OKOKU ARTICLE FOLLOW:

-- THE KCIA IS WORKING IN NIGERIA TO "MANIPULATE" NIGERIAN PUBLIC
OPINION TO PRESSURE THE FMG TO RECOGNIZE SOUTH KOREA.

-- KCIA IS OPERATING IN LAGOS THROUGH A COMMERCIAL FIRM AND HAS
ESTABLISHED LINKS WITH SOME PROMINENT NIGERIANS INCLUDING MEMBERS
OF THE MASS MEDIA.

-- IF NIGERIA WERE TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH
KOREA, IT WOULD BE SUPPORTING THE DOCTRINE OF TWO KOREAS AND PER-
MITTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF "A DIPLOMATIC MISSION OF A COUNTRY
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THAT HAS WORKED CONSISTENTLY AGAINST OUR FOREIGN POLICY."

-- SOUTH KOREA HAS A COMMERCIAL MISSION IN SOUTH AFRICA AND IS
INVOLVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY THERE.

-- SOUTH KOREA AND THE U.S. "BLOCKED" THE UNGA RESOLUTION CALLING
FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA AND CALLING FOR

THE UNIFICATION OF KOREA. THE ARE NOW WORKING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
RECOGNITION OF TWO KOREAS.

-- SOUTH KOREA WAS REFUSED MEMBERSHIP IN THE NONALIGNED MOVEMENT
BECAUSE SHE IS "A MILITARY OUTPOST OF USA IMPERIALISM."

-- NIGERIA WOULD BE "PITCHING TENT" AGAINST THE NONALIGNED MOVEMENT
IF IT RECOGNIZED SOUTH KOREA.

-- ACCEPTANCE OF THE TWO KOREA DOCTRINE BY NIGERIA WOULD RUN
COUNTER TO THE PRECEDENT SET BY THE FMG IN ITS CHINA POLICY AND
WOULD BE "INDEFENSIBLE AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF NIGERIA'S
CIVIL WAR."

3. COMMENT: IKOKU IS A LAGOS BUSINESSMAN, FORMER LEFTIST TRADE
UNION LEADER, SELF-DESCRIBED SOCIALIST AND HAS OFTEN BEEN ASSOCIATED
WITH BLOC ACTIVITIES. WE HAVE LITTLE DOUBT HE WAS INSPIRED TO MAKE
HIS PUBLIC STATEMENT BY THE NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY HERE. HE HAS
TARRED THE SOUTH KOREANS WITH TWO OF THE WORST CHARGES ONE CAN MAKE
IN NIGERIA -- FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITY AND HELPING SOUTH
AFRICA. WHILE HIS STATEMENT DOES NOT REPRESENT GOVERNMENT POLICY
IT DOES LITTLE TO HELP THE SOUTH KOREAN CASE WITH THE FMG AND COULD
RESULT IN SOME HARASSMENT OF KOREAN BUSINESS FIRMS HERE BY THE
NATIONAL SECURITY ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS IN THE PAST INITIATED
INVESTIGATIONS BASED ON NEWSPAPER REPORTS.

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